

C.O.C.A. TIMES

COIN OPERATED COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 1
ISSUE 3
NOVEMBER 2001



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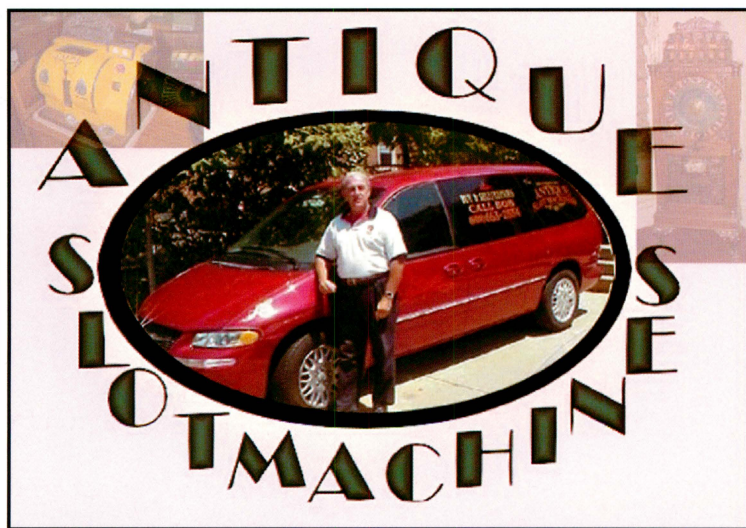
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Letter from Your President

As we approach the winter season, a lot has changed with the C.O.C.A. Club. Our membership has increased tremendously. We have a top rated magazine, our meetings in Chicago have become not only a social event, but a great learning experience. We have a silent auction at every Chicago meeting, we are going to shortly introduce the C.O.C.A. clothing line and for all members with their 2002 renewal a C.O.C.A. calendar. Not too bad for one year. As I look back over the last year, I realize our club has an unlimited amount of potential and growth. Many members have stepped up and given us a hand. We can always use more help. If you have a story, are able to participate in one of our committees or whatever, please let me know. 2002 looks even more exciting and brighter. Keep in mind this is your club---its success depends on all members, not just a few.

At our November meeting, Mel Getlan, a long time collector will share with us some history, stories and some of his vast knowledge about our great hobby. I suggest you make plans to be there. Check out an old article that was written in the Milwaukee Journal in the 80's about Mel Getlan. It is featured in this issue.

This fall both California and Ohio had their annual coin-op shows. Both were well attended and both had some very rare and desirable machines show up. Support the local shows throughout the U.S.

And last but not least, our country is going through a very difficult time. The future will be brighter. I hope you all have a happy and healthy 2002. God Bless America!

Paul Hindin
President, C.O.C.A.



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Deadline for next issues ads & articles:

February 1, 2002

About the Cover:

The cover photos for this issue come complimentary from the vast collection of Jim Grimwade.

Jim specializes in the rare gambling and penny arcade machines from the turn of the century. Though no coin-op is safe from this advanced collector, one of his main interests is the electric shockers.

A good shock was thought to cure what ailed a person as well as a gambling device to see who could withstand the most electricity! Today these works of art are prized by those who have acquired these mechanical masterpieces.

We hope to feature Jim and his collection for a future issue.

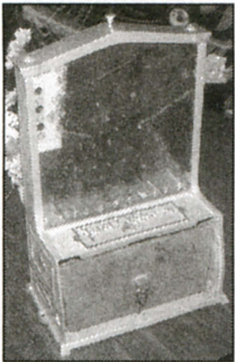
See the collectors directory to contact Jim or email him at: jgrimwade@aol.com

ANTIQUE ADVENTURES

by John Carini

.....in Denver

My wife went to Denver for a week in June to visit her sister. And of course, she had to do some antique shopping while she was there. She called me to say she had found a cheap, beat-up machine from the '20's and would be bringing it home, but wouldn't tell me what it was.



She had found it the very first day, at a shop called the Colorado Antique Gallery of Littleton. Hidden behind some stuff on the floor of a vendor booth was a beat up Mills Target Practice, marked \$25.00 (see photo). The machine works, but was missing the front glass, back lock, and front casting. I

am currently working with another collector to restore the machine, including a new front casting. She also brought me back a nice Beechnut Gum Display that she had picked up at the Brass Armadillo Mall of Denver for \$17.00.

Denver also has an "antique row" not far from the downtown area attractions. After touring the Denver Mint, my wife visited the many antique shops located there, and found several with coin-op machines, and one in particular had quite a few. She brought me back business cards from the shops since she wasn't sure what some of the stuff was, and the other family members she was with were tired and wanted to leave. I later called the owner of one shop and picked up a Double Nugget for \$100.00 (see photo).



Are you wondering how to find out where the shops and flea markets are? No matter where you

are vacationing, there are a few easy ways to find the local antique shops. First, surf the internet. In the search field, type in the name of the nearest large city and the word "antique". Then try the city name and "antique row", or "flea market". Often you will find listings of antique shops in the area, or a calendar of flea market dates. I also recommend the Leggetts' Antique Atlas. This is a 2-volume book set that lists antique stores, malls and shows across the U.S. The one thing you need to be careful of is that antique shops come and go. You should call before making the drive there.

.....in Minnesota

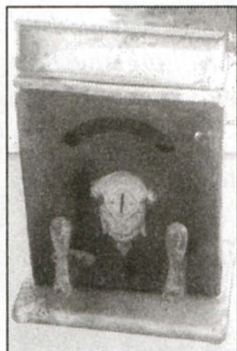
It's called Gold Rush Days. Each August in the Rochester, MN area, two very large flea markets are held on the same weekend. Several other collector friends had told me about it, and we decided we would try it this year. We left on a Thursday morning, stopping in many antique shops in the large cities on the way up. Along the way, we noticed we were always trailing another coin-op collector. We saw business cards tacked to the bulletin boards, and several times when we asked the store owners if they had coin-op machines they made a comment that they were asked just yesterday for the same thing.

When we finally got to our hotel, we noticed a lot of other people there for the flea market. We knew it must be big to have so many out-of-town people coming to it. On Friday morning, we left early to get to the Oronco flea market located just a few minutes outside of Rochester, arriving at 8:00 o'clock, just as it was opening. It was a large flea market with a good variety of antiques (very few liquidation type product vendors). We walked around and saw old soda machines, and a really old late 1930's wood cabinet Wurlitzer Juke Box (unfortunately it wasn't

for sale). We also saw scales, cash registers, trade stimulators, advertising and various common gumball machines. Prices were pretty high. One antique dealer had a Columbus A, in good condition, but it was \$575.00 firm.



Then we ran across a fellow coin-op dealer that we knew from the Chicago Show. His booth had some very nice coin-op machines (see photos).



As we were making a deal on an Imperial 1 cent Cigarette Reel Trade Stimulator (see photo) which we later purchased, two more fellow collectors from the Milwaukee area showed up. They had called the vendor before the show, and pre-purchased a number of items. They loaded up some really nice coin-op machines into their van and left. The Imperial Trade Stimulator we purchased was in good condition, although it is missing the back door. One unusual feature was a 1940 Arkansas tax stamp in the window, indicating a \$1 annual tax fee. The machine will make a nice addition to my collection.



We also picked up some common machines for resale, including a 1940's Regal, a 1940's Oak Acorn and a Northwestern '60. We also found a neat English Penny Arcade Machine (see photo), called

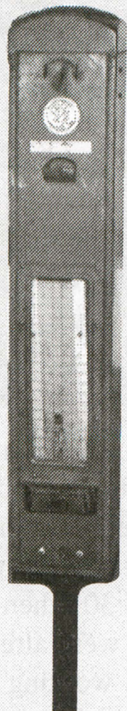
Allwin de Luxe, priced at \$550. We finally left the flea market at around 11:00 o'clock. My wife and I had promised our kids we would take them to the Mall of America in Minneapolis. What should have been a 90 minute drive turned into a 4-1/2 hour drive because of the many



antique shops on the way. In one shop, we found a 1920's Mills Puritan Trade Stimulator priced at \$1300.00. Ouch! I also found a double Neko, but it was \$595.00. We didn't find much else in the way of coin-op machines. It was almost 3:30 when we reached the Mall of America, and we were already tired. But we spent about 3-1/2 hours working our way through the mall. The mall is huge, filled with shops, restaurants and attractions including an amusement park and aquarium. And very expensive. The one interesting thing, though, there is no sales tax on clothing.

On Saturday morning, we stopped at the Rochester Flea Market. The weather was rainy. Luckily, there were more vendors inside the buildings than outside. We found a lot of nice advertising here, although overall it was expensive and not as nice as Oronco. We did find one nice chrome Brookside on a stand for \$100.00. I also found a Cardinal Trade Stimulator, priced at \$550.00, a counter game machine priced at \$250.00, and some common gumball machines, all overpriced. We walked away empty handed. We started back to Milwaukee, this time taking a different route and again hitting more antique shops. I didn't find any coin-op machines, but my wife found a very ornate antique left-handed mustache cup & saucer.

While I can definitely say these were very good flea markets, I will probably not go back in the near future. The competition for coin-op was fierce, and I came back with the feeling we were always one-step behind many other coin-op collectors.



What is it?

Follow Up..... from the 1st Issue by John Carini

As you may recall, in the first issue of C.O.C.A. we asked the readers to help us out with information on a vending machine we had picked up on our West Coast vacation (see photo). Well, last month we received an e-mail from Kevin Gowland of England, explaining the machine. He wrote:

This machine was basically a "Universal" type and I've seen it with Confectionary, Cigarettes and Nestle printed down the sides. It came individually and also in a set of 3 on a purpose build stand that usually had some sort of related advertising on a time lithographed sign board along the bottom. The 2/- is the English shorthand for the old two shilling coin which existed before we went over to decimal in 1971. After '71, the new 10 pence piece was the same size and value as the old two shillings, but more recent 10 pence pieces are smaller in size. I have one with Confectionary printed down the sides. I originally had 3 - two were on 6 pence and one was on 3 pence. At 2/-, I would say that yours would definitely have been for the sale of cigarettes.

Thanks for the information Kevin! Now if we could only figure out how an English machine ended up for sale in a Snohomish, WA antique shop?

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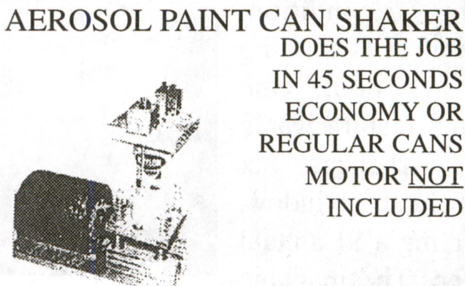
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Twentieth Century "SPIRAL"

by Alex Warschaw

Anyone familiar with trade stimulators, especially the early oak cigar type has heard of the "Twentieth Century Spiral". The name is actually the "Spiral" and was made by the 20th Century Novelty Company out of Springfield, Ohio, and has a patent date of March 13th, 1906. It is 15 inches high by 10 inches square. It is a wonderful classic which has a spellbinding effect as the user watches his nickel gyrate down a corkscrew structure as it disappears out of sight into the waiting coin box. There is a small flag which rotates at the bottom of the base. The flag stops at a corresponding number which designates how many cigars the user would get. Typically the patron would win one cigar for their nickel. Chances of winning 2 or 3 cigars was a possibility but rarely occurred as often these games were rigged. I have included with this article photographs of my "Spiral" to show you what the typical one would look like.

Here is where the story gets interesting. I came across an old original ad for "The Greatest Slot Machine Ever Invented". It was called "The Winner". Doesn't that machine look familiar, it is a "Spiral" with a vertical coin entry. I have never seen one, but have no doubt that it exists somewhere.

This machine was a free give away when you purchased a total of \$17.50 worth of Cigars (500) or 6 gallons of French Blackberry Brandy (\$12.00), or a 1 case of Brandy and 1 case of Rye Whiskey for \$26.00. The ad states that the machine pays 20-24 cigars to the dollar. The merchant can make about \$5.00 to \$7.50 profit on the order of 500 cigars, plus he gets the free machine. More importantly he gets the business of the customer who will hopefully buy other items as well (matches for a penny?)...thus the name trade stimulator. Even the ad itself states "it is a trade winner not a gambling device".

It always amazes me to look at the craftsmanship of these machines and the ingenuity it took to create it. All accomplished with time, patience and a tremendous sense of pride in the work....no power tools, copy machines, Home Depot, etc.....all for the profit of a penny or a nickel. How many of us don't even bother to pick up a penny or a nickel lying in the street? If we do, it is probably more for the exercise than the money. Makes you wonder what we "won't" pick up in a 100 years from now.

For further information, contact Alex Warschaw at (walex6@qwest.net).



"The Winner,"
THE GREATEST SLOT MACHINE EVER INVENTED.

It is a trade winner, not a gambling device, consequently can be used anywhere.....

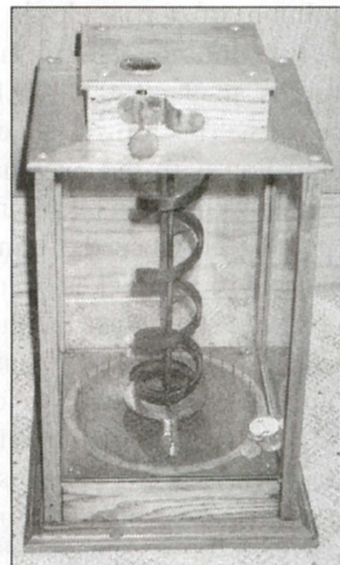
WE WILL GIVE YOU
A Winner Slot Machine
FREE OF CHARGE
IF YOU ORDER OF US:

500 La Española Cigars	\$17.50
OR	
6 Gallons French Blackberry Brandy	
\$2 per Gallon	\$12.00
OR	
One Case Imp. Cognac Brandy	\$12.00
One Case Penna. Club Rye Whiskey	\$14.00
	\$26.00

This Machine will sell more Cigars for you in one week than you have ever sold in a month. Guaranteed to sell four and one-half cents for each Cigar. It is a trade winner, not a gambling device. Full description, directions how to use and guarantee sent with each machine.

Terms Cash. \$5.00 must be sent with every order. Balance payable when you receive goods and the Winner Slot Machine.

THE WILLIAM S. TURNER DISTILLING CO.,
530 & 532 Main St. Cincinnati, Ohio.



Rosenfield Reliance Scale - 1909

by Jim and Merlyn Collings

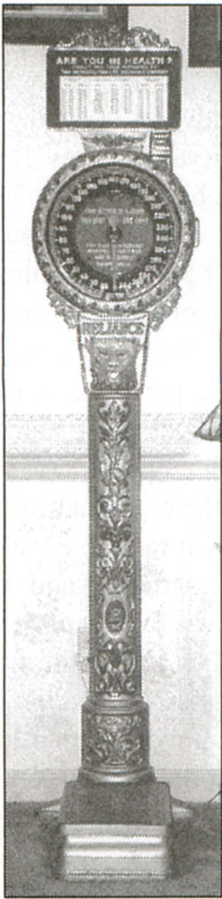


Photo #1

Several years ago I purchased this elaborate Rosenfield Reliance from Gerald "Red" Meade. Both "Red" and I considered this our favorite cast iron scale. "Red" had one in his own collection (which sold at Julia's April 1999 auction.) There are probably four of these scales that have shown up. Years ago "Red" mentioned to me that a Rosenfield Reliance was seen at at Dominican Republic beach area. I'm not sure if "Red" ever followed that lead or not.

This scale is ornately embossed with tulips, pedestals with leaves, a slender crane, filigree, the MR Logo and rope design. These embossments are on a painted column of green, blue and gold with a silvery-grey background. It is quite a beautiful sight to be hold! (photo #1).

Between the head and column of the scale is a fierce looking lion that guards all the 1909, V.D.B. pennies. The brownish colored lion with red eyes has the lock located in his mouth (photo #2). Once the lion's panel is unlocked and removed there is another locked hinged door resembling a mini-safe! (photo #3). Also, behind the inner door is a lever which opens the hinged bezel making it easily accessible to the mechanic. The Rosenfield Reliance is of a conventional spring mechanism



Photo #2



Photo #3

with a practical locking rack bar assemblage.

The porcelain face has a vibrant red inner circle and a royal blue outer circle with white lettering and numbers, ornate blue

flowers and gold leaves encircle the bezel around the scale head (photo #4). The back of the scale head has a large five-pointed star with gold rope design continued on the back of the column (photo #5).



Photo #4



Photo #5

To the best of our knowledge there are two types of marquees used on the Rosenfield Reliance. The first type (as on our scale) is pictured on location (photo #6).

This early postcard is from the Bill and Jan Berning collection, the second marquee showed up on the silver Rosenfield Reliance auctioned at Julia's in November 1999 (photo #7). The Rosenfield Reliance is 77" high, the diameter of the head measures 15-1/2" (including the bezel), while the width of the base is only 11" (photo #8), making the Rosenfield Reliance scale the first true Big Head Scale!



Photo #6

William W. Rosenfield began the Rosenfield manufacturing Co. in 1896 and introduced his first coin-operated beam scale in 1905. He was a major player in the coin-op industry, being both innovative and inventive. His accomplishments included slots, arcade, peep shows, trade stimulators and coin-op phonographs. His five-reel poker machine, his 1904 twister arcade machine (with side handles), and his stylish illustrated song machine, where music, voice recordings, and pictures could be programmed by the owner, showed his real genius. It is no wonder that one of the most beautiful and stunning scales appeared in 1909 known as the Rosenfield Reliance.

In our opinion, coin-op scale collecting is one of the most underrated areas of early Americana, for the following reasons:

- 1.) Scales are easily transported - using any hand cart.
- 2.) With a little practice and simple logic the coin-op collector can also become a scale mechanic.
- 3.) Scales offer a quick and available service for your coin.
- 4.) They are a period piece which take up very little floor or wall space.
- 5.) Their ornateness, natural wood, vibrant colors, and porcelain surfaces accent almost any coin-op collection.

“HAPPY SCALE COLLECTING”

6.) Scales can be easily accented by advertising, autographs, movie memorabilia, jukeboxes, arcade, slot machines and other early Americana.

7.) Their relationship to Caille Bros., Watling, Jennings, Rosenfield, Mills, National, Fey, Toledo, Columbia and other coin-op manufactures is integral to the 20th Century.



Photo #7



Photo #8

TALES OF THE HUNT

I have two "tales" for you this issue.

They are submitted by **Don Pom** of Wisconsin and **Bob Bensinger** of Michigan.

Don Pom titles his.....

My Fabulous Catch

After reading about Jack Freund's and Paul Hindin's "can you top this," fish story in the first issue of the C.O.C.A. Times I have to tell you about my fabulous find.

The find came out of one of my weekly fishing expeditions. Now before you start thinking that's not surprising given that's all we do in Wisconsin is fish. These fishing expeditions do not begin at the crack of dawn and end after a long day sitting in a boat trying to drown worms.

They begin with my ad in one of the many Penny Shoppers, as weekly free circulation papers are called in the ad business. Those of you who have used these types of newspapers know that they offer very reasonable rates, with ten word ads for a dollar or two. Being in the ad business, I had the good luck to have an annual directory of Penny Shoppers, published by the state newspaper association. If you are interested in this type of fishing, you may want to ask your local Penny Shopper if a directory is published for your state.

As they say in the ad business, "it pays to advertise". Like fishing, you never know what you are going to snag. It all starts with a phone call from a person with a gumball or peanut machine. As you may know, trying to find out what is being offered can be quite a trick. I wish I had a dollar for every time I have been told that the machine is "red and has a glass jar on top."

This story started with an ad in a New Holstein, Wisconsin shopper. In answer to my ad, the caller said that he had some gumball and peanut machines. One of the questions I asked him was if the machines were cast iron or aluminum? He said that he had both. In as much as that's all he could offer as to the type of machines, we set up a

Saturday meeting.

Because Saturday was a bright sunny day and a short 50 mile drive, I asked my wife and teenage daughter if they wanted to come along for the ride. I did this at some risk to myself, as my wife does not appreciate the beauty of gumball machines. Her usual comments about my finds consist of "what do you want that junk for." I had a feeling that the machines would be combination of Victors and Silver Kings, from the cast iron and aluminum description. I was afraid of hearing "you went all this way to buy this junk?"

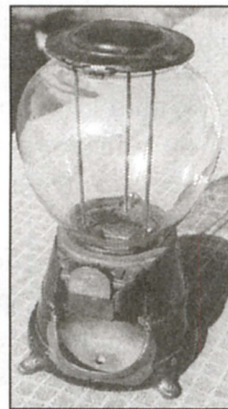
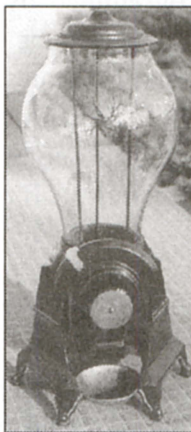
As it turned out, an old farmer, whose farm was on a road named after him, owned the machines. When we arrived at the farm, my wife and daughter stayed in the car and I followed the farmer to his barn.

When I stepped into the barn and looked at the workbench I almost fell over. On the bench were

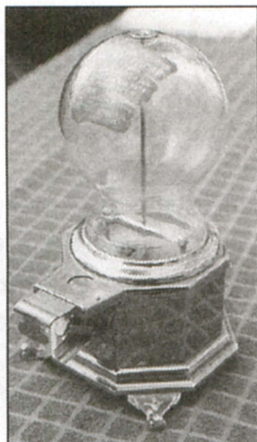
five vending machines, a Griswold Red Star, a Hance with a fat boy globe, two Blue Bird bulk vendors, with the mid size globes and a National Breath Pellet machine. I didn't know what to do or say I was so shocked. I don't remember who set the price, but I bought all five machines for \$300.00.

As it turned out, he also had a couple of nice trade stimulators, which I bought from him the next weekend.

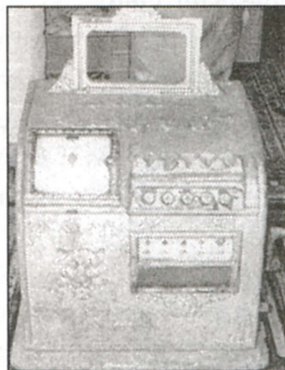
While the farmer did not say where he got the machines, he did tell me that his father used to distribute trade stimulators in the area and that as a kid he would deliver them to local taverns.



After the deal was made, I took the machines out to the car and put them in the trunk. My wife said I looked like the cat that had just swallowed the canary. On the way home I told them about each of the machines. I was especially excited about the National Breath Pellet machine, as I had just seen Jack Freund's machine and really liked it. I told them that I was a little disappointed that mine did not have a nice decal, like Jack's. As I carried the machines into the house, my daughter noticed that the National did have a decal on the back of the globe. This was the icing on the cake for this great find.



Next to it was an old Parker Trade Stimulator made around 1910 by Parker Mfg. Co., in Kalamazoo, Michigan, also missing the back door, but it worked



and it was all oak. As I was looking them over there was no one else showing any interest in them, which made me all the more excited!

When the auction started the first items up were a lot of glassware, cups and saucers, brooms and mops, things I had no interest in. While this was going on I looked around the room and noticed that there were not a lot of people at the auction, and I did not see anyone from the coin-op hobby.

I called over one of the auction floor men and asked him if he could place the two machines on the table, for that was what I was there for. He told me that would not be a problem. As they were placed on the table the old ticker started to beat pretty hard.

The bid started at only \$5.00. I went to \$10.00 and from what I could see only one other person was bidding. I then went to \$20.00. The auctioneer could not get anymore; he even tried for \$22.50. Then the hammer fell and he asked me if I wanted the both for \$40.00. I replied "HO, YES I DO" and they were mine!

I paid for them and left the building, looking over my shoulder with a big grin.

I found out later both of the machines were in a Western Auto Store in Cass City, Michigan for years. They then went to a bakery in Cass City and were in the basement until the owner took them and placed them in his barn. Then he took them to the church, where they found their "new home in Cassville, Michigan.

Bob Bensinger titles his.....

"A Fantastic Find"

My story and find will start when I was coming out of an auction stockyard in Cass City, Michigan, at the end of last October. I noticed an auction flyer on a bulletin board as I was leaving. I walked over to it, tore a copy off, and noticed at the bottom of the flyer there were two machines listed. One had a wheel with a tiger on the front and it looked like all the original paper was there. The other one appeared to be all oak and it had a horizontal wheel. I could hardly believe it.

The upcoming auction was going to be held in about two weeks in a small church not too far out of Cass City. Well, needless to say, I could hardly wait. On the morning of the auction I was up early and drove about 40 miles to the church. I was one of the first at the front door waiting for them to open.

When I entered the building I noticed the two machines on a table. I walked over to the table and could not believe my eyes. There sat a cast iron Caille Tiger all complete except for the back door.

November Meeting Update

by Paul Hindin

We are very lucky to have Mel Getlan as our guest speaker. Mel has been in the Penny Arcade/Coin Operated business for over 50 years. He has a fascinating perspective on Coin-Operated Machines both as a collector and a business. I know he will have some great pictures and stories to share with us.

I am also in contact with Jon Fitch who is the Sr. Category manager for Sports Memorabilia & Collectibles at Ebay. Unfortunately he will not be able to attend this meeting. If you have any questions regarding Ebay's category structure, recommendations for changes, or issues of concern I would be happy to relay them to him. He did ask me to share with you that on October 12th the "Arcade/Machines" category will be broken into the subcategory of "video" and "non-video". This is a welcome change resulting from his last visit with us and will hopefully allow our searches and listings in the arcade category to provide more fruitful results.

After the guest speaker I would like to break up into groups and have some open informal discus-

sions. The topics for the discussion groups can be decided at the time of the meeting based on interest. Some suggested topics are, restoring/evaluating coin operated collectibles, on-line auctions (successes/failures/horror stories) and original vs reproductions. If you have a topic you would like to discuss please let me know before the meeting starts. These are meant to be fun and informative.

Once again the meeting will be held in the Turquoise room on the second floor of the Tower at the Pheasant Run Hotel. For a nominal fee, beer and soft drinks will be available. We will also be providing chips and dip. Our silent auction was very successful at the last meeting and the funds raised helped offset the cost of the meeting and publishing the high quality magazine you are now reading. If you would like to donate to this event please bring these items to the meeting and contact either myself, Paul Hindin (Bedvib8tor@aol.com) or Dan Davids (djdavids@earthlink.net). I am looking forward to seeing everyone and welcome any suggestions for future C.O.C.A. meeting agendas.

TALES OF THE HUNT....

Those were two great stores we had this issue but now I need YOUR story. We all have a great "Tale" or two and this is your opportunity to share your good fortune, maybe even "crow" a little about it. Don't worry about spelling or punctuation; I'll edit it for you. Just send your story along with a photo or two and we'll take care of the rest of it. I'm depending on you. Send your tale to:

Jack Freund
P.O. Box 4
Springfield, WI 53176
or E-mail to: jbgum@msn.com

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E.E. Junior and Their Gumball Games of Skill

by Ken Rounds



Located at 711 East 61st Street in Los Angeles, the E.E. Junior Company is known for having made two vending machines, the PLAY BASKETBALL and PLAY FOOTBALL. We know a little about the history of this company. For instance, it seems to have been in business since early 1930, lasting until 1934 before conking out. Along with these two vending machines they also contributed a few pinball games to the California pinball frenzy of 1932 to 1934.

These two games of skill were apparently Junior's only contributions to the vending machine industry. Although they are "patent pending" no evidence survives to show that this ever led to actual patents. There seems to be little in their design that is unique and therefore patentable. However, the only other gum vendors known to involve skill play are the various Penny Drops, therefore making the E.E. Junior machines a rare example of this genre. Very few of these machines have apparently survived in working order. Estimates place the number of known working "3 for 1¢" PLAY BASKETBALL machines at a mere half dozen; the "2 for 1¢" machines fewer than that. Maybe three or four of the rarer PLAY FOOTBALL machines exist. In fact, I have been told by most vending collectors that they've never seen the latter item.

The basketball vendor is made of cast aluminum, while the football version is formed steel. Mechanically both machines are well conceived, with each step precisely thought out. PLAY FOOTBALL includes brass parts that can be adjusted as required, so as to vend fewer gumballs in the event the price of sugar increased.

PLAY BASKETBALL *functioned as follows:*

1. The gumball was passed to the shooter by inserting a penny in the slot, and then pushing the front lever all the way to the right.
2. The player tapped the right-hand lever firmly in order to try and make a basket.
3. Depositing the coin gave the player three shots for his or her penny.
4. The player was awarded any gumball to enter the basket, plus one additional gumball delivered at the right side of the machine.

PLAY FOOTBALL *functioned as follows:*

1. Gumballs were put into play by inserting a penny into the slot and pulling the lever. A total of five gumballs then lined up opposite the kicker's foot.
2. The player tapped the lower lever firmly to try for a goal kick as the kicker's foot swings forward.
3. Depositing the coin gave the player five tries for his or her penny.
4. The player was awarded any gumball which made it over the goal post, plus one additional gumball.

Note: Ken has since sold most of his collection but still enjoys the hobby of coin-op.

POT METAL

by Bob Stone

The Collector's Nemesis

Pot metal is encountered in many items of interest to collectors, and is generally looked upon with frustration and fear, and with some justification. This metal alloy was either carefully mixed, or brewed by the "wicked witch of the west", to produce often complex parts for many products which have become today's collectibles.

It was incorporated in both major and minor ways in such products as slot machines, trade stimulators, toy trains, radios, automatic record changers, and even in the Mills Violano Virtuoso!

Parts produced from cast pot metal were much less expensive than if made by other means such as machining.

My personal experience with respect to products which utilize this metal alloy is that the collector should not be wary of products which incorporate such parts, providing that the item is examined very carefully. In other words, if the collectible has pot metal parts and they are inspected carefully for cracks, disintegration, etc., and are found to be free of deterioration, then there should be no hesitation in acquiring the item. I'll even go so far as to say that some minor cracks on parts which are not stressed are also acceptable.

What's the basis for these statements? Well, this takes me back to the forties when I was employed for a few years at a well known "music store" in Boston as a service man for radios and automatic record changers. Here's where I first met Mr. Pot. Many of the early radios dating back to the twenties had pot metal tuning drives, and many of the automatic record changers had pot metal parts - in particular a large outside geared cam assembly with tracks to guide the pickup arm assembly during the record changing cycle.

I found that identical parts produced in the same time period varied widely in terms of condition. Some were warped, or cracked, or disintegrated,

while others looked like brand new.

Now here's where your going to have to listen to the voice of experience! I'm going to make the profound statement (like the guru at the top of the mountain) that if it ain't blistered, busted or cracked within 5 to 10 years of manufacture, it's made from good alloy and should last indefinitely. It should even last if it's slightly warped - a condition which is generally correctable, such as relieving pressure on a binding steel shaft.

An interesting observation of old die cast pot metal parts is that while the outside of a good casting is perfectly smooth, the inside is full of gas bubbles. A classic example of this is the coin entry on a Colombia slot machine. I've opened up the i.d. on a number of these to convert from smaller coin denominations to quarter size, and wow! Look at the bubbles. These apparently don't hurt the performance of the part, though. It's the nature of the beast, so to speak.

Well what got me all wound up about an article on pot metal for your coin-op readers was one written for antique radio collectors.

The following is a reprint of an abridged version of a well researched article which appeared in the February 1994 edition of the Antique Radio Classified, titled "The Pot Metal Story".

The Pot Metal Story

As its' name implies, pot metal may consist of whatever is thrown into a pot and melted. Although it may contain any metal or mixture of metals, the troublesome pot metal found in old radios is usually a zinc alloy. While the zinc content predominates (usually greater than 90%), other metals such as aluminum, copper, lead, magnesium and tin are added to the zinc as alloying agents.

A low melting point combined with low molten viscosity makes pot metal ideal for die casting. Die casting is the process in which a molten metal is forced into a mold. Pot metal exhibits low dimensional change during solidification. It is light weight, can be cast into intricate shapes, takes a good finish, and is easily machined. Pot metal castings can be produced inexpensively.

The disadvantages of pot metal are well known to most collectors and restorers. Pot metal may develop cracks, expand in size, and change shape with age. Even an old radio that appears to be in good condition may harbor a dial drive that cannot be budged because of a bad pot metal casting, worse yet, a casting may be broken.

The problem with pot metal lies in its composition. The combination of zinc and its alloying metals can produce an effect called "intergranular corrosion" -- the growing, warping and cracking that appears in pot metal castings.

Around 1900, available zinc used for die casting had a purity of about 98%. Tin and copper were added to the zinc to give it strength and make it easier to cast. Later, the addition of a bit of aluminum (0.5%) was found to be beneficial. Unfortunately, it was discovered later that this alloy promoted intergranular corrosion and produced an alloy with very poor dimensional stability. But in 1922, it was determined that aluminum was not the culprit so much as impurities such as lead, cadmium, and tin.

Controlling and limiting the number of impurities in zinc was not an easy task. For economic reasons, it was customary for foundries to rely on the scrap metal market as a source of zinc ingots. The purity of those ingots was not always a certainty.

In 1926 it was discovered that a small amount of magnesium (0.1%) helped to counteract the impurities and thus reduce intergranular corrosion.

In 1929, improved processing made it possible to produce zinc ingots with a purity of 99.99%. This high degree of purity permitted foundries to exercise greater control over the content of the zinc alloy used to produce castings. Consequently the quality of their finished products improved.

So why was the quality of some castings so poor?

It was probably a combination of ignorance and economic pressure. The practice of adding a bit of lead to be the alloy was a popular method for improving "meltability". The consequences were disastrous. The addition of lead resulted in serious intergranular corrosion. To quote Michael Kitner from his book *The Mills Violano-Virtuoso*, "Today's standards permit a maximum lead content of 0.005%. "This is considered to be so important that most die casting plants will not even allow a lead hammer to be brought into the building

"What it amounts to is that in the early years, no one knew better, and if it would melt in the pot - great! Gradually over the years, however, the intergranular corrosion problem came to the surface, especially in the warmer and more humid climates".

High levels of humidity appear to be particularly harmful to old zinc alloys, the damage done by electrolysis is not well documented, but it also appears to be a factor.

Economics quite likely played a role as well. During the 1920's and 1930's, cost was an especially important factor in the manufacture of mass produced radios. When castings were purchased, the lowest bidder usually prevailed. Also, specifications were less sophisticated than they are today.

So much for the past. What can we do about those deteriorated castings? As you might expect, there are some limitations on the degree of repair or restoration that can be achieved. However, there are some practical repair techniques that can be applied.

But first a warning. Never try to straighten a pot metal casting by bending or pounding it back into shape. Such attempts will surely result in a broken casting. Similarly, be careful not to drop a pot metal casting.

Previously, pot metal could not be soldered, but now a product called "Solder-It Paste" makes it possible to solder pot metal. The paste is heated by a torch and is most effective on lap joints and as a crack filler. Butt joints can also be soldered satisfactorily if the repaired casting is not used in a high stress application. Information on this product may be obtained from Solder-It, Box 20100, Cleveland, OH 44120.

Pot metal can be welded by several processes. But it requires a skilled operator, and the cost would probably be prohibitively high.

Epoxy or cyanocrilite glues provide a convenient means for rejoining broken castings. Epoxy glues are available in several types. Some are quick setting while others provide a greater bonding strength. Most epoxy glues set rather quickly and their working time is brief. If an epoxy glue begins to thicken and is difficult to apply, discard it and mix a new batch.

Since a broken casting's surfaces are usually very rough, epoxy or cyanocrilite (Super Glue) glue will produce a strong bond. However, the broken surfaces must be perfectly clean. Use lacquer thinner or a similar cleaning agent to clean the surfaces to be glued. Allow the parts to dry thoroughly before gluing. The use of clamps and guide blocks to hold the parts in alignment until the glue sets will help to achieve a good bond. Try some practice runs before actually applying the glue. Also, remember to allow sufficient time for the glue to set.

The same glues can be used to fill cracks in castings. Besides filling the cracks the glue seems to stabilize the pot metal and prevent the pot metal from becoming worse. One writer recommends the application of several thin coats of cyanocrilite glue to fill cracks. The amount of glue required will reflect the porosity of the casting. Allow each coat

of glue to set up before the next application. I have achieved satisfactory results with epoxy glues. But either type should work.

Depending on the amount of stress to which a repaired casting will be subjected, some form of reinforcement may also be desirable. If appropriate, use either metal pins or splints to provide added strength. Drilling should be accomplished only after the glued or soldered joint is set and strong. There seems to be no simple method for repairing distorted castings. For swollen castings, it may be possible to file down the oversized area after the cracks are filled with glue or solder. Shafts that are seized in pot metal arc best treated with the usual penetrating lubricants.

One final word from the author. In approximately 25 years of Columbia slot machine restorations, I've not seen more than a couple of deteriorated cast parts, as opposed to broken castings due to abuse. Probably the worst condition cast zinc alloy slot part which I've come across is a pay slide cover from a Jennings 4 Star Chief!!

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"The Mystique of The LION VENDOR"

by Ken Rounds

The accompanying photo depicts a 5¢ LION VENDOR, an item chosen from my extensive vending machine collection. Very little seems to be known about the background of this item. We do know that this model emerged around August 23, 1904, and was apparently produced by the Kelly Gum & Mfg. Company. Several various identifying facings are known, including PIX, KEMACO, and LION. Present values show these machines trading in a range from \$5000.00 to \$14,000.00 each.

These factors above list most of the known elements of the LION. Questions remain, those I wish to pose to the readership here as well as to fellow LION collectors. The answers will refer to the unknown elements of this vendor, of which there are many.

Considering the elaborate design of the LION, was it created to be used on regular vending routes? If so, why was such intricacy of detail and ornamentation lavished on such a pedestrian item? One would assume that a great many of these were produced, since no one likely would have spent so much time and money design-

ing such a fancy product. That being the case, why have only a handful of these machines survived to the present day?

Brass nameplates found affixed to examples of the LION VENDOR found today sport the names of individual companies. For example, the one I own reads, "H.E. Sumner Specialty Co., Davenport, Iowa." Is it possible that these machines were originally supplied by special order, or perhaps as a reward for outstanding sales volume, and therefore private-labeled for each recipient?

My acquisition of this particular machine is an interesting one. It hung by a coat hanger in a gentleman's attic, suspended by its hold-down ring, for about thirty years. For twenty years before that, it was in this gentleman's father's home. He kept it all that time because of the feeling that he had an item of some value. One day, while on vacation, he suddenly decided to sell it to an antique dealer. This dealer restored it to its present condition, and then sold it to me.

If there are any readers out there who can help me fill in the blanks regarding the origins and distribution of the LION VENDOR, any and all information would be greatly appreciated.

**The Lion
Vendor Before
Restoration**



**The Lion
Vendor After
Restoration**





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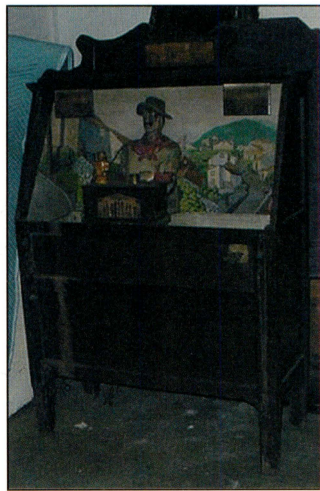


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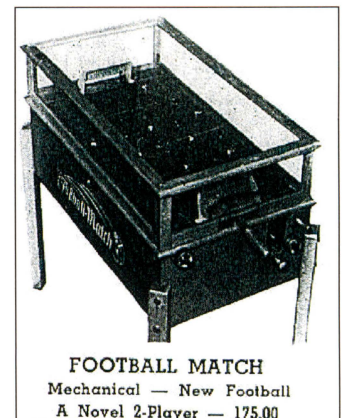
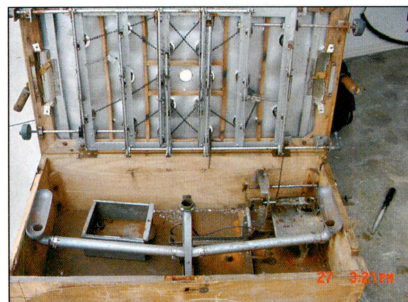
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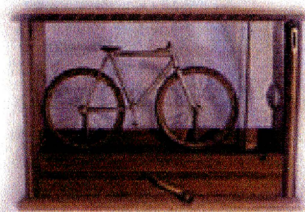
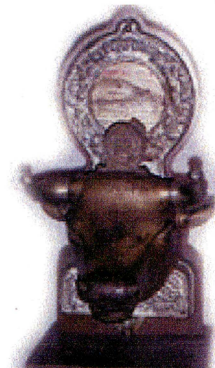
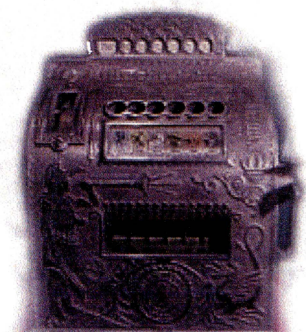
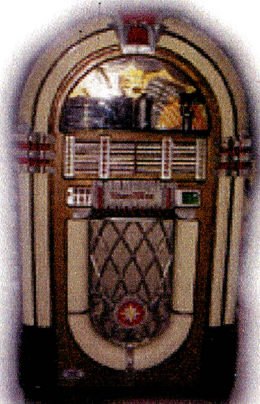
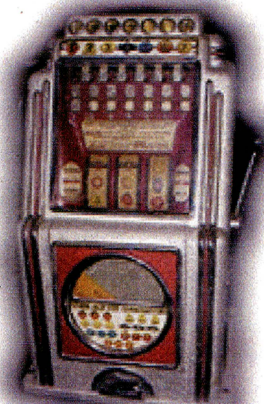
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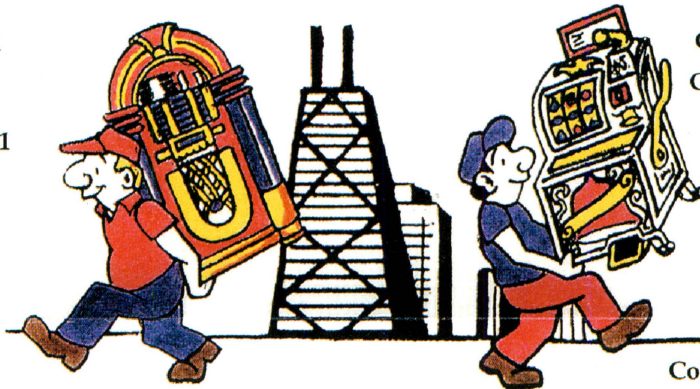
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Contributed by William Daugharty

Buckner's Yield 4 Slot Machines

State Police raided Buckner's Tavern, Williamson Road, at 1:30 am Wednesday and confiscated four slot machines.

Cpl. Dan Wurzburg of the Bay City Post led two other troopers with a search warrant issued by Justice Emmett J. Robinson of Bridgeport. State Police say they have been receiving complaints on Buckner's for several days.

Wurzburg said he would confer with Prosecutor Henry E. Naegely this afternoon to determine what charges will be placed.

Tavern Owner Facing Charges

Cpl. Dan Wurzburg of the Bay City State Police post said Thursday the four slot machines confiscated early Wednesday morning at Buckner's Tavern, Williamson Road, yielded \$98.

A warrant against Joseph Buckner, proprietor, is expected to be issued Thursday afternoon, according to Prosecutor Naegely, who said "it certainly will be a circuit court misdemeanor and not a justice court case."

State Police Get Another Machine

Striking at slot machines for the second time this week, State Police Troopers James Berardo and William Daugharty, accompanied by Deputy Sheriff Leo Sullivan, Thursday night confiscated a machine at Sunset Inn, Dixie Highway nightclub.

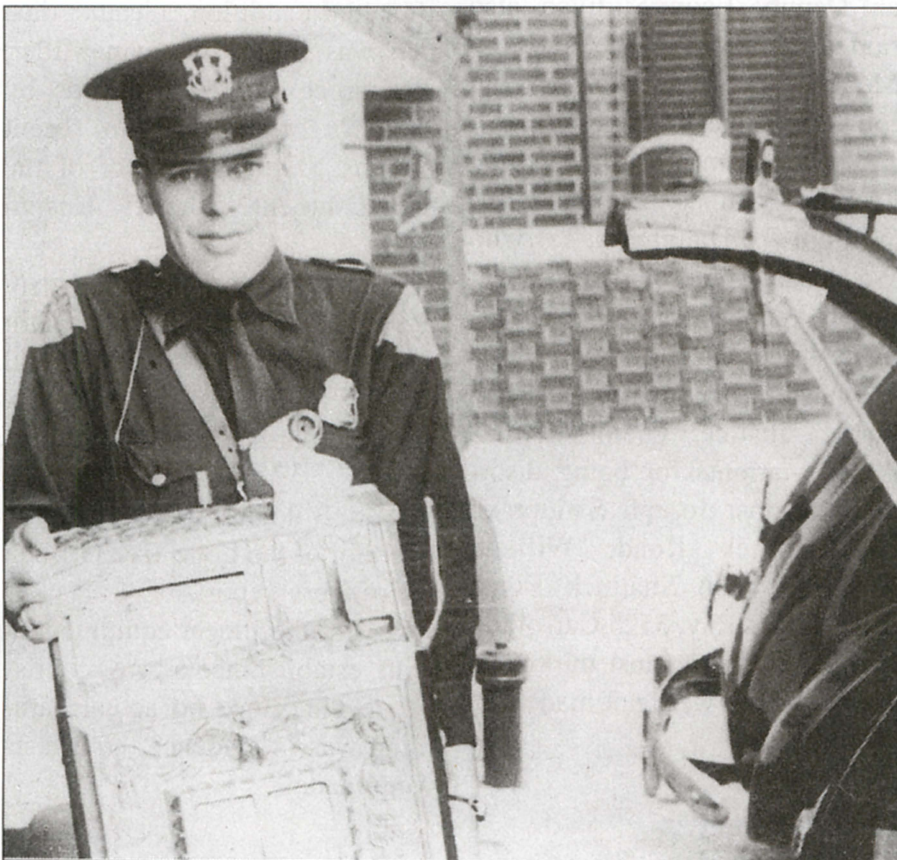
The troopers were to confer with Prosecutor Naegely Friday to press charges against the proprietors. Buckner's Tavern, Williamson Road dining spot, was raided Tuesday night with four slot machines confiscated.

Gaming Warrant Names Inn Owner

Fred Petramaulx, proprietor of the Sunset Inn, 7615 Dixie Highway, was named Tuesday as keeper of a gambling house in a warrant ordered by prosecutor Naegely and signed by Justice F. Emmett Robinson of Bridgeport.

State police, accompanied by Deputy Sheriff Leo Sullivan, last Thursday confiscated a slot machine at the Sunset Inn, the day after State Police confiscated four at Buckner's Tavern, Williamson Road.

Joseph Buckner, proprietor of the tavern, was named Thursday in a warrant charging him with running a gambling house.



State Police In Crackdown On Gambling

*Zilwaukee, Carrollton
Places Raided;
Punch Boards Confiscated*

Troopers from the Bay City State Police post Wednesday night cracked down on four Carrollton and Zilwaukee business establishments, confiscating a varied assortment of punch boards, tip-tickets, and dice in the first gambling crackdown here in several weeks.

Troopers James Berardo and William Daugharty, on routine patrol, discovered the gambling evidence at the Azek Recreation, 364 Shattuck Road; the Ray Patrick pool hall, Zilwaukee; Log Cabin restaurant, 496 Shattuck Road; and Carrollton Recreation, Carrollton.

Charges against the four establishments were being discussed Thursday by Prosecutor Naegely and Troopers Daugharty and Berardo.

The state police crackdown prompted a warning by Sheriff Munroe that his department will confiscate any gambling equipment and press charges against owners and operators.

Pool Hall Raided, Gambling Found

*Undersheriff Leads Merrill-
Hemlock Foray*

Following a state police crackdown Tuesday on tip-ticket and punch board gambling in Carrollton Township, Saginaw County sheriff's officials Thursday night raided the Merrill Recreation pool hall, confiscating several money punch boards and tip-tickets.

One punch board contained \$30 while the others called for cash from the business establishment for winning numbers.

Undersheriff Ellis F. Johnson and Deputy Leon Sullivan also raided another smoke shop in Merrill and one in Hemlock but found no evidence of gambling.

Upon complaint of State Troopers James Berardo and William Daugharty, who Wednesday night confiscated tip-tickets, punch boards, and dice from three Carrollton and one Zilwaukee Township business place, Justice Clements has issued warrants for being disorderly against Joseph Swidorski, 34 Shattuck Road; William Ankoviak, 336 Shattuck Road; and Clifford Ray, 3525 Carrollton Road. Charges against the fourth establishment were not made.

Slot Machines Confiscated

*Restaurants Yield
Varied Equipment*

VAN DYKE --- Two totalizer (slot) machines, 16 punch boards and dice-cup equipment were picked up by Sheriff Harley Ensign early Sunday morning in raids on two Warren township restaurants.

When the sheriff and Deputy Daniel Adair walked into the El and Lee cafe, one tenth of a mile west of Hoover road, they found five punch boards displayed on the counter and another five stacked away beneath it, the sheriff said. In addition, a leather dice cup was found. Norman Miller, 39, target of frequent raids by sheriff's officers within recent months, is the proprietor of the establishment, Sheriff Ensign said.

In their net early morning visit, at the Lone Tree Grill, 5647 Eight Mile road, the officers found another totalizer machine and six punch boards, Ensign's report shows.

Sam Bologna, 50, was listed as operator of the Lone Tree Grill on the officers' report.

All of the illegal equipment at both establishments was confiscated, but, since no actual gambling was in evidence, no arrests were made.

Tavern Operator Pays \$100 Fine, \$25 Costs

Joseph E. Buckner, proprietor of Buckner's Tavern, Bridgeport where State Police seized four slot machines in a February 18 raid, pleaded guilty Thursday to a charge of disorderly conduct by engaging in an illegal occupation. Buckner, who was examined by Justice Emmett Robinson, paid a \$100 fine and \$25 court costs.

Prosecutor Henry E. Naegely, Jr., reduced a charge of keeping and occupying a gambling house to the lesser count.

UD 4
MICHIGAN STATE POLICE
COMPLAINT

County Macomb Complaint 11-18197
City () Pile Class No. 21-2
Village () Message No.
Township xxx Lake
Post Detroit Time 7:00 PM Date December 14, 1961

COMPLAINT

01 () Anonymous	07 () Other Police Agency	12 () State Highway Department
02 () Citizens	08 () Other Local Agency	13 () Secretary of State
03 () Michigan State Police	09 () Governor's Office	14 () Bureau of Tax Administration
04 () City Police	10 () State Conservation Department	15 () Other State Agency
05 () Sheriff	11 () State Health Department	16 () Other Federal Agency
06 () Federal Police Agency		

Name Tpr. W. Daugharty & H. Potter Address Detroit, Mich.

NATURE OF COMPLAINT

Officer report confiscating a number of slot machines in St. Clair Shores, Macomb County, Michigan per orders of Sargt. W. Redt, Commanding officer of Detroit Post.

REPORT

Officers confiscated the following number of slot machines: Six 5¢ slot machines, and eight 1¢ small slot machines. The machines and where seized, and the place owned where these various machines were being used is as follows:

#1-Ede's Diner
Eda Johns of 22936 Van Dyke Ave. Owner
Van Dyke, Mich. Macomb County.
One 5¢ slot machine, no name, serial number # 017-437796

#2-Ted's Bar-B-Q
Clyde C. Hayes of 22119 Van Dyke Ave. Owner
Van Dyke, Mich. Macomb County
One 5¢ slot machine, no name, serial number # A30909

#3-Rate's Diner
Kathleen Demott of 8027 E. 8 mile rd.
Van Dyke, Mich. Macomb County
One 5¢ slot machine, Twin Jack Pot serial number # 127050
One 1¢ slot machine, Delans Mercury, serial number # 27

#4-Roth's Service Station
Raymond Charles Roth of 32303 Harper
St. Clair Shores, Michigan, Macomb County
One 5¢ slot machine, Treasury, serial number #

#5-School's Service Station
Charles Seidel of 33601 Jefferson Ave.
St. Clair Shores, Mich. Macomb County
One 5¢ slot machine, Treasury, serial number # 176697

(Report Continues Over)

Received by Tpr. Daugharty & Potter Investigated by Daugharty & Potter

DISPOSITION

If this report concludes complaint, fill out following. If additional investigations

Date of Final Disposition _____ 1. () Complaint
2. () Complaint
3. () Service Ref
4. () Other Dis

Post of Final Disposition _____

UD-4
MICHIGAN STATE POLICE
SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

County Saginaw Compl. No. 31-6059
City () File Class No. 21-2
Village ()
Township or () Bridgeport
Date of Supplementary Investigation February 18, 19, 1947
Post Bay City Date of Original Complaint Nov. 15, 1946

If this report concludes complaint, fill out the following. If additional investigations are to be made, leave this disposition box blank.

Date of Final Disposition _____ Disposition
Post of Final Disposition _____ 1. () Complaint Unfounded.
2. () Complaint Closed by Arrest.
3. () Service Rendered.
4. () Other Disposition—Specify.

Re: Joseph E. Buckner, Buckner's Tavern, Williamson Rd. Bridgeport Twp. Saginaw County reported to be a gambling house.

These are true copies of the reports William Daugharty was required to make out when he confiscating gambling machines.

February 18, 1947 Tpr. Daugharty and the undersigned made a visual check of the establishment and saw 8 cars parked in the parking lot at Buckner's. Officers parked patrol car, walked up to the southeast corner of the building and heard the familiar sounds of slot machines, heard them pay off occasionally. Heard remarks requesting "Change" and the remark "I hope you get the jack pot". With this information the prosecuting attorney HENRY NAEGELY was called and informed. The post commander was called. Arrangements were then made to obtain a search warrant from Justice Robinson, Bridgeport. In company with the post commander, the officers reported to the Justice, home, where the complaint and search warrant were drawn up. Feb. 19, 1947 At 1:30 AM Officers went to Buckner's only to find that it had closed. MRS. BUCKNER was informed of the officers presence and directed to open the doors to the main building which the dining room and gambling house, her residence being separate from the establishment in question. Being unable to produce a key, Tpr. Daugharty went through the kitchen window, unlocked the door and all officers made a search of the building. In the Southeast room, were located 4 slot machines. 3 of which bore the trade name "SILVER CHIEF, the fourth without a name. # 1 a .25¢ Silver Chief, bearing serial # 138962, valued at about 150.00 and having \$45.25 in the machine. # 2 a .10¢ Silver Chief, bearing serial # 144456, valued at \$125.00 and containing \$25.30 in the machine. # 3 a .05¢ Silver Chief, bearing serial # 144779, valued at \$125.00 and holding \$12.35 in monies.

Can Gum and Peanut Machines Be Faked?

by Terry Harte

Part III

Finishing & Comparing Real and Fake Machines

In the previous article I explained how foundry castings are made and how to identify recast or reproduction parts. This part of the article will describe the process of cleaning, machining, assembly, oxidizing, and painting the recast Columbus A dish base vending machine to make it appear old.

After the recast parts are returned from the foundry, there are usually several obvious defects or imperfections in some of the parts. The parts have to be cleaned before any further work can be started. Some of the tools I use to clean the parts are an assortment of hand files and electric grinding tools. I use a large electric grinding wheel to remove excess metal or smooth areas in the castings. I also use a small hand held grinding unit with interchangeable bits and wheels called a Dremel tool.

After the parts are mechanically cleaned, you have to drill and/or clean up holes as necessary to assemble the parts. Sometimes the holes will have to be threaded using a tap and die set. Once all of the parts are ready and before any other work is done, I try to assemble the parts along with any springs, screws, etc. to see if the machine will work correctly, especially the vending wheel. If the machine will not accept the coin or other interference is noted, additional grinding and filing is necessary to make it work properly.

After I'm confident all the parts are cleaned and mechanically working properly, I send them all to the abrasive blast cleaner. But before you can have any parts blast cleaned you must first remove any oils used for tapping screw threads with solvent. Sand blasting will not remove oils from the surface. If oil is present before blast cleaning and not removed, it will contaminate the surface resulting later in loss of paint due to improper adhesion.

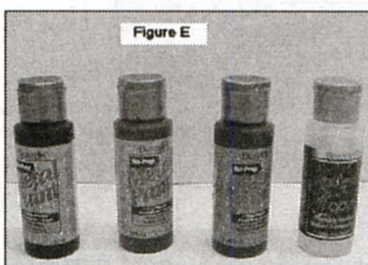
Abrasive blast cleaning is excellent in removing surface contaminants like mold sand, burned-in

sand, debris, grinding marks, etc. I usually recommend "sand" for the abrasive with cast iron. After blasting, the surface is uniform in color, cleanliness and appearance.

Grinding and filing marks are removed with this process. For aluminum castings, I recommend using "beads" for the abrasive. This process will provide a uniform cosmetic finish in addition to cleaning the part. This will make the buffing and polishing easier later on.

The next step is painting the cast iron parts. I found a great product in a specialty store for people who like to make furniture, metal and other wood items look old and used. Many hobby, craft and fork art stores carry this product. It's called DecoArt metal paint. Made in Stanford, KY. It works great and comes in many colors. After drying it gives the appearance of old "cracked or crackled" paint finish (see figure E and F). It's easily applied by brush in a few steps. The brush application further gives the

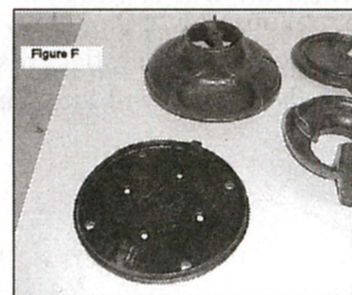
"rough" uneven look to the paint. It really resembles the old weathered original factory paint jobs. However, like all paint jobs, to the trained eye, one can



tell its been repainted.

Other ways to make the metal look old with a natural patina is to apply an acid base or caustic solution to the surface. I have found

these products in some hardware stores and in shops where reproduction brass items such as brass pulls, knobs, lighting fixtures, etc. are sold. These solutions work especially well on steel, brass and iron. Aluminum is harder to age.



After final assembly of the Columbus A dish base and putting on a new replacement globe and decal, the total reproduced machine looked really great (see figure G). The only old original item I put on the machine were the barrel locks. I've heard that these too have been reproduced, but have never seen one.

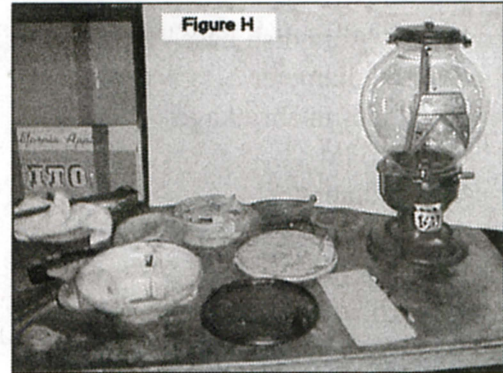


Today many people reproduce glass and plastic globes to fit many common and rare gumball and peanut machines. Some of these reproduction globes are made using the original old molds. Others are made using recently manufactured molds, or spun or blown into shape. In all cases they usually fit the machines correctly and appear to be even "old and original". Some people have gone to lengths of trying to further enhance the appearance of aging the glass by adding grinding or sanding marks to the exterior sides. Sometimes small nicks in the glass are made in the rim. Even the decals are made to look old, especially if it's a paper decal. Aging the paper with stains, cuts, etc. will make it appear old. But here again, a trained eye can usually tell the difference. It's much harder to age a water transfer decal, I know because I tried it several times with the Columbus A.

The best way to identify old original glass globes from the new ones is to look down onto the top or bottom opening of the globe. When you look at this opening, look at the flat cross sectional end of the glass. New glass will look like it's "green" in color. I don't mean looking through the glass, because it will look clear and correct. I mean you look at the end where one can measure the "thickness" of the glass globe. When viewing this edge the glass has a somewhat light green color reflection. On the other hand, old globes when looking at this same top or bottom edge will appear either clear or have a yellowish tint. Older globe glass composition contained more trace amounts of lead than today's soda-lime glass composition. This test is not 100%

accurate with all new or old globes. I have seen what I've known was an original globe, but it had a green tint color to it. It's not a perfect test system, but it does give you an indication.

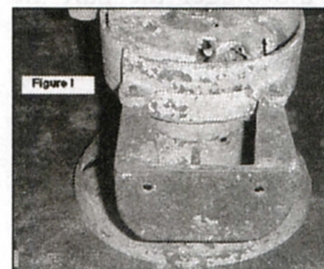
Finally I come to the comparison of the reproduction Columbus A to the original one (see figure



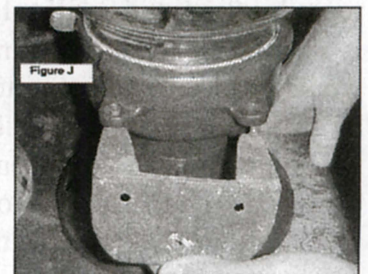
H). The original Columbus A had never been restored and was completely assembled, old and had the original paint (however it was in need of restoration). When I tried to interchange the cast iron base and vending wheel mid section, they would not switch. The parts looked like they would,

but the shrinkage factor would not allow it to fit together correctly.

Another good way to identify problem areas was when I tried to use the original wall-mounting bracket on the reproduction base (see figures I and J), here again



because of shrinkage, it would not fit into the reproduction piece. If I had recast the wall bracket using it for my pattern, the recast piece would have fit into my fake machine but not into the original.



For comparison purposes I tape measured some of the real and fake parts. All the parts were cast iron. The results are:

Vending Machine Part

Results in inches

Difference in inches

Real bottom dish base

7-5/8" diameter

—

Fake bottom dish base

7-9/16" diameter

1/16" less in shrinkage

Real top lid

4-3/4" diameter

—

Fake top lid

4-11/16" diameter

1/16" less in shrinkage

Real globe hold down ring

4-3/8" diameter

—

Fake globe hold down ring

4-11/32" diameter

1/32" less in shrinkage

As can be seen above, the bigger the part the more the shrinkage. Other smaller aluminum parts could be interchanged. That's why items like flap doors, vending wheel parts, etc. can be used without affecting the operation of the machine. When larger recast parts are needed, usually you have to grind, file and sand the parts to make them fit. But when you compare it to the original part the differences can be visually seen or confirmed by measuring.

Finally I come to the summary of this whole reproduction versus original machine mess. If a part is needed to complete a machine, that's fine. It would be nice if the owner told the new buyer when he decided to sell it about the recast parts, but if not, hopefully one can now identify and tell the difference. But if the owner of a completely faked machine (and he knows it) tries to sell or trade it to

the uneducated buyer or collector, we risk our own coin op collections, reputations and general good will among fellow hobbyists and more importantly future collectors.

The last and final part of this series will be the "Buyer Beware" list. This list will try to be as complete as possible listing all known faked machines. In future updates I may try to include other coin op machines such as slots and trade stimulators.

Part IV

"Buyer Beware List"

Now that everyone has read the previous three articles and is an "expert" at identifying fake gum and peanut machines, it's time to compile the "Buyer Beware List". This list is to the best of our knowledge accurate. In most cases the machines listed have been completely reproduced. In some cases only part of the machine has been reproduced and added to an original machine to enhance its value. A good example is where a person used an "original" Columbus A with the normal base, recast a Columbus A dish base and added it to the machine. The enhanced value is more because of the faked dish base. The current price guide would increase the value for this partially faked machine an extra \$150.00. Depending on which machine a person tries to fake, it can be very lucrative when selling or trading the machine to unsuspecting collectors.

In order to help all collectors to better identify each machine, I have referenced Bill Enes's book "Silent Salesmen Too" to show a pictured example. The list will name the vending machine manufacturer and give the page number where it can be found in the book.

See List on Next Page....

Buyer Beware List

Manufacturer's Name and Machine

	Page #
1. Bluebird Products Co. ñ Peerless Penny Drop (wood base only, machine is original)	25
2. Will P. Cannan ñ Bantam Beehive (aluminum without tray, bulk machine with slanted coin entry)	32
3. Northwestern Corp. ñ Canteen (cast iron either painted or porcelainized)	33
4. Northwestern Corp. ñ 33 Junior Double Base (cast iron with porcelain, *fantasy piece, never originally made)	33*
5. Coleman Hardware Co. ñ Chicago (cast iron)	38
6. Columbus Vending Co. ñ Model A (cast iron original machine with a recast dish base added on)	39
7. Columbus Vending Co. ñ Model B (cast iron original machine with recast vending wheel section and aluminum chute flap added to a Model A, without dish base)	41
8. Columbus Vending Co. ñ Model E (Cast iron, with and without dish)	43
9. Columbus Vending Co. ñ Model 32 or Bi-More (aluminum base has been recast with original vending wheel midsection and globes added)	49
10. Hance Mfg. Co. ñ Rex Breath Pellet (aluminum)	70
11. R.D. Simpson - Leebold (aluminum)	84
12. Little Nut Vending Co. ñ Little Nut Type C (aluminum gumball)	86
13. Coleman Hardware Co. ñ Morris (cast iron)	100
14. Railway Automatic Sales Co. ñ Adams Pepsin Tutti-Frutti (new porcelain signs for both front and sides)	130
15. R.D. Simpson Co. ñ Simpson Jr. (cast iron)	140
16. General Mdse. Co.- Smilin' Sam (aluminum)	150
17. Pulver Company, Inc. ñ Pulver Short Case (new porcelain applied in various colors to original short cases, without advertising on sides)	160
18. R.D. Simpson Co. ñ Confection Derby (cast iron & aluminum)	174
19. R.D. Simpson ñ Simplex (aluminum)	175

SICKING MANUFACTURING

by Tom Gustwiller

Sicking was established on Freeman Avenue in Cincinnati, Ohio by Barney Sicking. Barney was born in 1861 and in the grocery business for many years. One day in 1895, someone put a coin device on his counter. He was so impressed with it, he started in the business. He was helped by his wife and only son John, along with others.

Sicking presented his firm as a "Manufacturing Company" actually he was what was termed a "jobber" years later and what is today, designated as a "distributor". There were no jobber or distributor price discounts at the time, but in view of the fact Mr. Sicking bought in quantity, he obtained a lower price, allowing him to sell new machines as well as rid himself of old equipment he had operated and traded in. Mr. Sicking operated machines from various company's allowing him to know which worked best and earned the most money. Other operators, buying from Sicking, profited from the knowledge he had gained. With this advantage Sicking grew fast in the market (see photo).

Ben Goldberg joined the company in 1920. Ben had operated in a number of leading states on a large scale and was well known in the machine business. When Mr. Sicking died in 1928, the Sicking's sold out a few years later in 1931. They sold the firm to Ben Goldberg along with Bill Marmer a newcomer in the machine business. Bill had been a clothing designer for Raab Clothing Company and because of the rough depression times decided to get into something else. Bill had been operating a few machines when Ben Goldberg contacted him. The firm was changed to Sicking Inc., and became known as an outstanding distributor, not only here, but internationally during the great growth years of the 1930's. Ben Goldberg passed away after World War II. Sicking Inc., continued under the direction of William Marmer who had been joined by his son, Milt Marmer. Bill Marmer left the firm in the 50's and moved to Florida where he died in 1985. Milt changed the name of the company to Marmer Distributors in

1953 and continued in the pinball and jukebox business. The Johnston Act of 1951 took care of his slot business. The Johnston Act disallowed the inter-state shipping of slots. Milt disposed of his slots through a warehouse in Reno as a distributing point and through direct sales to Japan. Finally

in 1961 Marmer closed its' doors for good.

When I talked to Milt in the 1980's he could remember back in 1931 when his father bought Sicking, one of the four floors had drums the size of 55 gallon drums. These drums were taller than normal and were used for dipping the



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There is one machine that Sicking did manufacture and it helped him prosper. It was a cast iron card machine and was made in different models (see photo). It had rewards of drinks or cigars given out by the operator.

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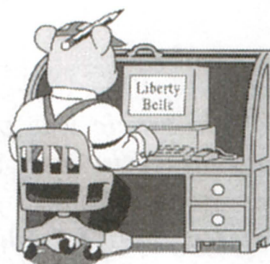
SICKING....by Tom Gustwiller (*continued*)

old cast iron card machines. The drums had layers of paint and water in them. The machines were put on hooks, dipped, and taken out slowly. This gave the machine the beautiful marbalized effect which we see on a few of the machines today. Milt said there were a lot of the old floor machines (uprights) in Sicking in 1931 but they were all sold off to a movie studio in Hollywood. Milt was 68 years old then and, he was busy taking care of his mother in Cincinnati, Ohio, but I've lost contact of him since them.

There is a great reprint available of Sicking's circular circa 1923. It shows dozens of machines form upright's to counter games. I see them at the Chicago Show sometimes.

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Advance Large Football.....	\$35
Climax 10.....	\$65
Columbus #8 with Star.....	\$40
Columbus #8 no Star.....	\$55
Columbus #9 with Star.....	\$45
Double Nugget.....(2/\$75).....	\$40
Grandbois Cylinder.....	\$35
Hamilton.....	\$55
Lucky Boy/Boyd.....	\$40
NW 33 Gum.....	\$35
NW 33 Frosted.....	\$40
NW 33 Junior Tall.....	\$65
Regal Cylinder.....	\$30
Regal Pear.....	\$35
Silver King.....	\$35
Simpson Large.....	\$45
Victor Cylinder.....	\$30
Victor Square.....	\$30

Original Globes

Abbey Round.....	\$40
Abbey Lantern.....	\$20
Asco Hot Nut.....	\$95
Advance Round.....	\$50
Advance Large Football.....	\$70
Atlas Bantam 8 sided.....	\$60
Atlas Bantam Smooth.....	\$20
Blue Bird Large.....	\$150
Columbus #3 Hex.....	\$125
Columbus #8 with Star.....	\$125
Columbus #9 No Star.....	\$150
Millard Cylinder (New).....	\$50
NW Model 31.....	\$85
NW Model 33 #5 Smooth.....	\$80
NW Model 33 #5 Frosted.....	\$115
NW Model 33 3.5# Smooth.....	\$75
NW Model 39/40 Tall.....	\$95
NW Model 39/40 Short.....	\$95

Original and Misc

Acorn Embossed.....	\$45
Columbus "Ace".....	\$50
Vendex Fishbowl w/decal.....	\$75

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Old Slots Pay Off as Antiques

Contributed by **Paul Hindin**

This article was published in the Milwaukee Journal Newspaper, March 28, 1980. This article was shared with me by long time collector, Johnny Finkler, alias JukeBox Johnny 2. The article is about C.O.C.A.'s November guest speaker, Melvin Getlan....

Newspaper Enterprise Association

New York, N.Y. -- In more than half the United States it still is illegal to possess, much less use, a slot machine. But pressure from collectors has encouraged 21 states in the past several years to relax their laws.

As a result, coin-operated gambling machines -- along with the always-legal vending, music and arcade machines and "trade stimulators" -- have become hot items at auctions and other sales of Americana collectibles in Ohio, New Jersey, New York, Colorado, California, Illinois, Texas, Pennsylvania, Oregon, Florida and other areas -- including, of course, Nevada, where it has always been allowed.

Evidence of this was the all-time record crowd at the recent Collector's Carousel sale at PB84, an auction house in New York, where more than 75 coin-operated machines went for bids as high as \$9,000.

That record was set for a Mills "Admiral Dewey" 1902 5-cent one-wheel slot machine in an upright musical cabinet. A Mills Baseball O.K. vendor 5-cent three-reel slot machine (1929) that dispensed mints went for \$7,000. More recent and familiar "one-arm bandits" sold for \$1,500. up.

Law Was Amended

This, the first such sale in New York state in more than a half-century, became possible on July 10, 1979, when Gov. Hugh Carey signed an amendment to the state's gambling laws. The action, in turn, was based on a California test case several years ago following the arrest of a collector-dealer

there who tried to sell a machine through a newspaper ad. He won his case and got the law change.

Pressure to change the New York Law had been brought by the Society for the Preservation of Historical Coin-Operated Machines, of which Melvin Getlan is president and chief mover. A Westchester County (north of New York City) businessman, he also is a collector, owning about 500 of the machines.

However, he did talk Sotheby Parke-Bernet, operators of PB84, into the idea of such an auction, though he recalls they were doubtful if it would stir much interest. Now they happily admit they were wrong.

Restrictions Remain

Despite the liberalizing of the slots sales law, there still are restrictions. In New York, only those machines can be sold and owned that were made prior to 1941; they are legally considered antiques. According to Getlan, the date marks the start of the changeover from entirely mechanical slots to electronic-and-mechanical or all-electronic devices. Also, most of the pieces that old have endured too much wear and tear to work reliably in a gambling casino.

Other states have variations on this limitation. In Illinois, for example, any machine 25 or more years old is legal to possess.

Trade stimulators are coin-operated machines that pay off not with money but with purchasing power for the particular establishment in which they were installed. For example, the payoff in a candy store could be in candy or gum; in a tobacco shop it could be in cigars.

Getlan became interested in collecting through visits with his cousin in Maryland who had been collecting coin-operated machines for years. In 1972 Getlan began assembling trade stimulators, paying from \$50. to \$125. when he located one for sale. He started buying Antique Trader, a weekly

Old Slots Pay Off.... (continued)

listing of collectibles, and prowled old shops and flea markets.

Representational Collection

Later he decided on a representational collection of all types of coin-operated machines. A consultant for the PB84 sale, he designed it in the same way, with a variety of types.

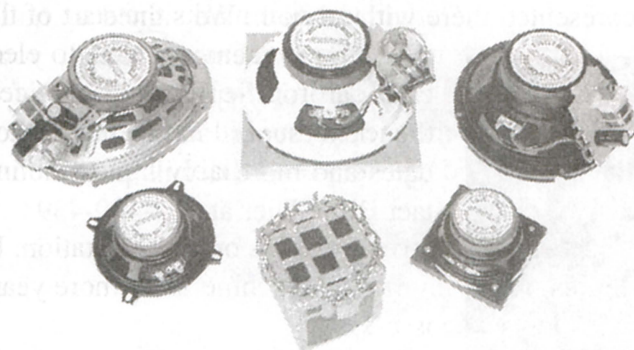
Some collectors buy these devices for their recreation rooms, others for the investment potential, and many just because these gaudy old machines are entertaining to have around. A 1936 Watling "Treasury" 5-cent, three-reel slot, with twin

jackpots, in a cast metal housing decorated with cascading coins, can be the life of any party. It sold for \$5,250.

The same amount of money bought another kind of coin machine: a Wurlitzer jukebox front the 1930's, with bubble tubes framing the glazed front, revealing 24 records, within a wood case. This one was restored and operating.

With prices like this some tavern operators might take a second look at that relic in the back room. And depending on where you live, old slot machines could warrant dusting off. They have acquired a new status as antiques.

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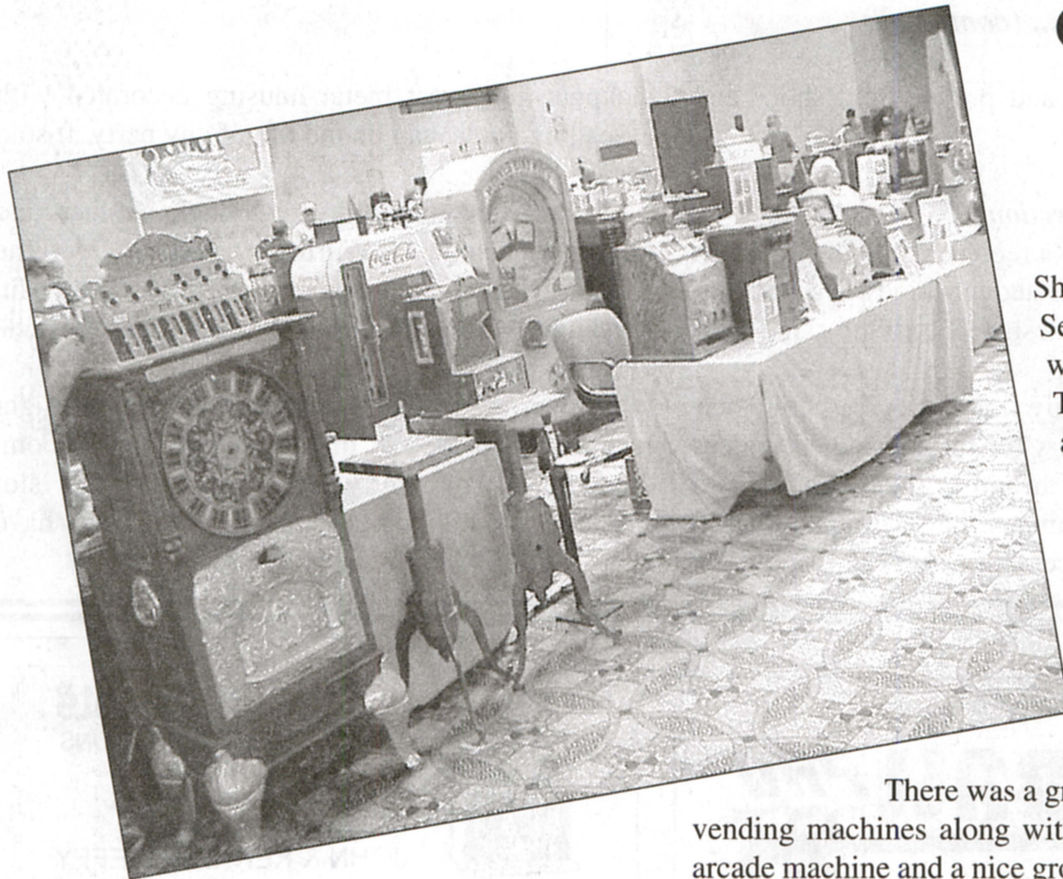
GUM & PEANUT MACHINES

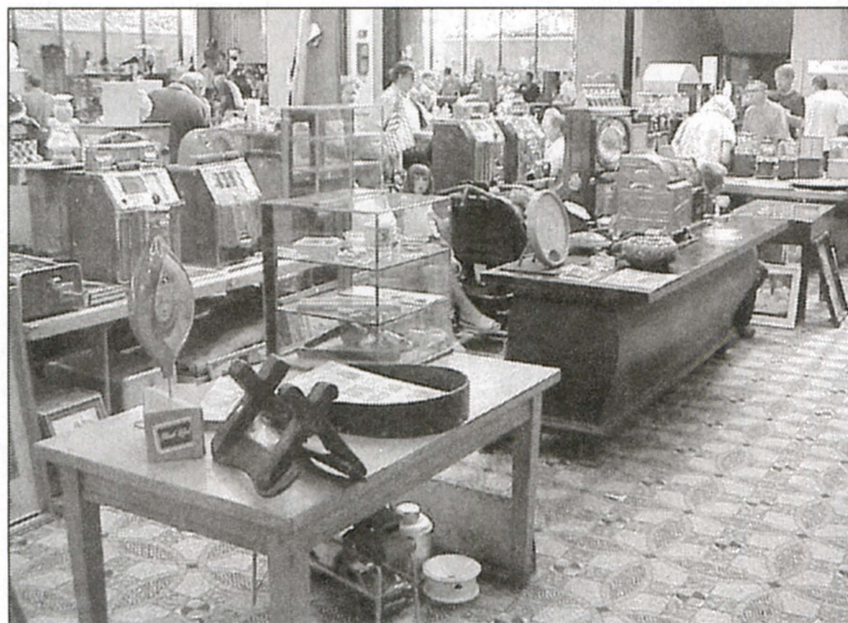
ARCADE MACHINES

Coin-Op Super Show

The Coin-Op Super Show held in California September 14 thru 16 was a great success. There were many rare and hard to find machines as well as those that are very affordable. With the over 65 dealers showing their goods, the hundreds of visitors were well pleased.

There was a great many slots, trades, vending machines along with country store items, arcade machine and a nice group of gumball, peanut and other coin-op machines. C.O.C.A. was well represented there with a booth. We signed up quite a few new members. Mark your calendar for September 2002 for the next super show. For exact dates and more details please contact Billie Dier at 562-430-4394.





CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: Circa (1941) Coca Cola Neon Clock, - hexagonal shape 18"x18", full working order including NEON. 1-inch green border, red numerals, partial white background, large red center with words "ICE COLD COCA COLA" and round 4-1/2" insert of silhouette girl. Includes L shape wall bracket and square electric box for neon function. Impeccable condition! First time offered. Owned 19 years, never in use, no wear.

Contact KEN ROUNDS:

559-784-6022, mid-days or evenings WC TIME

Individual keys available for Columbus Barrel locks - \$6. each. Pulver keys (including 2A and 10A) - \$7. each. All keys are recut, not original. Includes postage. Contact me if you need machine appraisals for insurance purposes. I can appraise from a photo and condition description.

Jack Freund - Call: (262)642-3655.

E-mail: jbgum@msn.com

WANTED: Early FORD Gumball Machine with an ORIGINAL round globe embossed with the Ford name in script. Also looking for any unusual Ford machines and any paper pertaining to Ford.

Contact Mike Murphy, 30 Browns Road,

Walden, NY 12586; Phone (845) 778-0491

Buy, sell, trade, rare machines. Iron, oak, aluminum. Caille, Mills or whatever. Send your list.

Tom Gustwiller, 116 W. Main St., Ottawa, Ohio 45875.

Call: (419) 523-6395 days or (419) 523-6556 evenings.

FOR SALE: Exact copy hand soldered tin cash box for Caille Aristocrat Roulette. These are always missing and here is the chance to own a perfect reproduction. Price is \$50.

Contact George Stupar (818) 248-6905

FOR SALE: Beautiful copy of the original Mansfield Mirrored Marquee with clip-on attachment. Complete your machine and greatly increase the value. Total cost with priority shipping and insurance is \$199.95.

Paul Hindin 3712 West Scenic Avenue

Mequon, WI 53092. E-mail: Bedvibr8or@aol.com

Thinking of selling your collection or maybe downsizing a little? I have been buying and selling for over 25 years and know who the buyers are. I will buy your machines outright or help you sell them.

Jack Freund

Call: (262)642-3655. E-mail: jbgum@msn.com

Need **HELP** with some mechanism pictures to restore a RAMADO CIGARETTE MACHINE (National Cigarette, page 229 in Silent Salesman II, also a match vendor version by Book Match Sales on page 273). Will be glad to pay for film, pictures and postage.

Mike Gumula, (336) 578-3592.

E-mail: mggslots@netpath.net or

mgumula@triad.rr.com

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Paul Hindin (262) 242-3131

E-mail: BedVibr8or@aol.com

Does anyone out there have a wood or cast iron **MUTO-SCOPE**? If so, I could use your help. I'm working on a new book covering the history of the mutoscope companies. What I need are the serial numbers of the name plates and which model machine it is. For example, "43014 Model A." I also need to speak to anyone that has one of the early **WOOD** mutoscopes. Please help the hobby and me and send an e-mail with any information you can provide. Thanks.

Larry Bieza, 1446 Albany Avenue

St. Paul, MN 55108

Call (651) 644-9473

E-mail: L.bieza@worldnet.att.net

If you want to grow your coin-op collection without spending too much money, you need to know when a deal is a deal. You need to educate yourself on the different machines and what they are worth. The best way to do that is to read books. So, if you need to expand your collection of coin-op books, shop on line at Crow River Trading Co. We have over 65 coin-op related publications listed on our Web site; www.CrowRiver.com. Check them out today, as many are out of print and the availability is limited. We take Visa and Master Card for your convenience and also ship internationally.

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Cigar Cutters/Lighters and miscellaneous parts wanted. Fancy and ornate pieces with advertising desired.

Randy Razzoog, (616) 453-8044.

E-mail: suhara@ameritech.net

We may not be in the Coin-op Grocery Store listing, but we are your one stop coin-op supermarket. Crow River Trading Co. now has over 500 items in stock for the restoration of gumball and peanut machines and A.B.T. gun games. Please visit our Web site to see many of the items in inventory. If you don't see what you need, please call Roger Hilden and check on its availability toll free: (888) 596-4992.

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BUYING quality vending machines and trade stimulators. Especially tall globe machines, manikin vendors, and early wooden case machines such as the bicycle and spiral.

Chad Boekelheide, Northville, SD.

Phone: (605) 887-3391. E-mail: buck@nvc.net

FOR SALE: Replacement back doors for both the short case Pulver and the Yellow Zeno machines. Pulver doors, \$125.00 and Zeno \$100.00. Very limited quantity. Free shipping in U.S.

Paul Hindin - 3712 W. Scenic Ave., Mequon, Wisconsin 53092.

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We love coin operated scales and old "woody" jukeboxes. Buy, sell, trade.

Call Jim and Merlyn Collings (828) 877-5800.

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Call: (303) 756-5369. E-mail: johnjoseffy@webtv.net

FOR SALE: 1929 Simpson Super Vendor, body, lid orange/brown crackle paint; original globe, decal, complete working condition, no visible wear, locks, one of the hard to find vendors. Also, Victor LC Topper, large gold speckled globe (round) mechanism wheel adapted to vend wrapped confections, fully working, mint condition, several 100% intact original decals on globe.

For details, prices, contact Ken Rounds, (559) 784-6022, 10-12:30 PST or evenings best.

PLEASE HELP - I am trying to complete a Bluebird Magic Vendor. I would like to know if anybody has a complete machine that I can have the wheel that spins recast from?

Please call at (503) 356-4822 or

E-mail: blafleur@gte.net

Are you coming to Chicagoland? Be sure to find me Friday morning in the parking lot. The following items will be for sale in the parking lot only, due to lack of booth space inside: Wagnor Match Vendor, Pix Match Vendor, Top Dog Dicer, 2 Imps, Malt Mixer, Pen Vendor, Mercury, Daval Comet, 2 Candy Scales, Daval Free Play, Root Beer Barrel, Sanders Lucky Pack, Mills Puritan, Mills Little Perfection, Pepsi Clock, Kelley Trade Stimulator, Stockbroker (English), American Eagle, Cigar Nippers, Roll A Pack, Mills Wizard, Fields 4 Jacks, Mills Target Practice, Hunter Duck Shoot. Many vending machines including: Silver King Hot Nut, Smilin Sam, Zeno, Numerous Pulvers, Log Cabin Duplex, Atlas Bantam, Yu Chu, 2 Advance, Northwestern, Deluxe, Master Fantail, Columbus A, Mansfield, Bluebird, Hawkeye, Stollwerck "L", Porcelain Zeno, Advance Horoscope. Slot Machines: Nickel Mills High Top, Bally Reel Deal, Bally Circus, Bally Bonus 7's. Many more items for sale in the parking lot only, all subject to prior sale. Look for me, find me, spend cash!

Jack Freund (262) 642-3655 or

E-mail: jbgum@msn.com

Crow River Trading Co. is a proud sponsor of C.O.C.A. We exist not only to sell product and parts, but to also be a help to the coin-op collecting community. Are you new to the hobby? Do you have questions? All C.O.C.A. members were once new to the hobby and only through talking to others and asking questions have we been able to become experts within our own niche. My narrow area of expertise is in the area of gun games produced by A.B.T. Manufacturing and the J.F. Frantz Co. If you have questions about any games made by these two companies, please give me, Roger Hilden, a call, toll free at (888) 596-4992. Or e-mail me, roger@crowriver.com. I am always happy to help in any way I can and usually I learn something from the conversation as well. Thanks for listening.

SALE OR TRADE: I have about 90 back issues of The Coin Slot and Loose Change magazines, many of at the early years. Also have some original slot literature (including Rol-A-Top), ads, manuals, schematics for early slots/games, juke boxes, etc.

Contact Ken Haynes:

Home: (770) 934-2377 or Office: (770-392-2301

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- 10¢ bold words.
- Ad minimum - \$3.50

I have the following information on the
Watling Company available Free to any
C.O.C.A. member.

- Watling customer records from 1928 - 1972.
This is a listing of all customers and all
transactions. Most slot machine information
has been removed.
- List of scale serial numbers with dates and
locations.
- Cash received journal 1964 - 1966.
- Shipping and receiving books from loading
dock 1959 - 1972.
- All F.W. Woolworth scale records.

Due to fire, floods, rodents, moving, rain, etc.
these records are not complete.

To request copies of any specific information,
send a self addressed stamped envelope to:
*Bill Berning, 135 W. Main St.,
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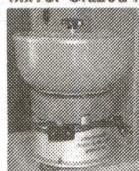
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